

A NEW BLIND SNAKE FROM THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS.

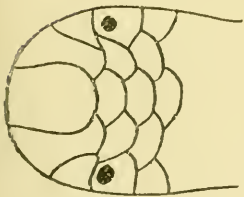
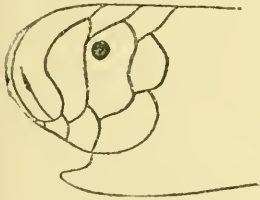
BY

MAJOR F. WALL, I.M.S., C.M.Z.S.

Typhlops mackinnoni.

I have lately received from Mr. P. W. Mackinnon, Mussoorie (circa, 6,000 ft.), a single specimen of a blind snake hitherto undescribed which I propose to designate *Typhlops mackinnoni*. It was rescued from the clutches of a fowl which evidently intended to swallow it, but in spite of rough treatment is very little damaged.

Although the species has up till now escaped recognition, and is only known from this single specimen, I have good reason to believe that it is not uncommon. Five years ago whilst in Mussoorie, the site for a new building was being prepared near the library (circa, 7,000 ft.) necessitating deep and extensive disturbance of the soil. On one occasion I found the workmen had encountered two or three dozen blind snakes in their burrowing operations, and killed them. Most of these, though only some 6 to 8 inches long, were hopelessly mutilated, or cut up into several pieces, but I rescued three or four specimens in good preservation. These I put into spirit, but unfortunately being engaged in other work, set aside, and did not identify, and the bottle containing them was left behind when I packed up. I think it extremely probable that all these specimens were the same as that now described.



Typhlops mackinnoni
(spec. nov.) (X 4).

of the eyes. *Nasals*.—Nearly divided, the suture above the nostril fails to meet the rostral, the lower suture passes to the 2nd labial; not meeting behind the rostral. *Præfrontal*, *Frontal*, *Interparietal*,

Description.—Length 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Snout rounded, and moderately projecting. Nostrils latera. Eye distinct. Diameter of body one forty-sixth the total length. *Lepidosis*. *Rostral*.—About one-third the breadth of the head, extending backwards to the level

Supraoculars and *Parietals* subequal and broader than the dorsal scales. *Præocular* nearly as large as the ocular, in contact with the 2nd and 3rd labials. *Ocular* in contact with 3rd and 4th labials. *Subocular* absent. *Temporal* single. *Labials* four. *Costals* in 19 rows (excluding the ventral row which is subequal to them, in size); decidedly broader than long. A spine at end of tail. *Colour*--Purple-brown above, lighter below. Chin and mouth white.

It will be seen that the species most closely resembles *T. porrectus* but differs in that the rostral extends back to the level of the eyes, there is a short suture above the nostril and the diameter of the body is $\frac{1}{46}$ the total length (in *porrectus* it is $\frac{1}{70}$ to $\frac{1}{90}$).
